

Summary
Agriculture, Fish and Water (AFW) Process
FOTG Executive Committee Meeting #5
June 28-29, 2000

Day One—Field Tour

Prior to boarding the buses, the following presentations were made:

1. Dr. Alan Schreiber (Ag Development Group) who covered Washington's diverse crops and
2. Mike Lettig (Key Bank) who spoke about the value of agriculture to the Yakima valley economy.

The tour itinerary included these locations and guest speakers:

1. Wenas Creek Riparian Habitat Area Tour—(Frank Hendrix, Yakima County WSU Cooperative Extension Agent and Karla Fullerton, WA Cattlemen's Assoc.)
2. Moxee Tour Site that included hop growing farming practices, water quality and quantity enhancement technology, and water quality monitoring program—(Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District, Eric Desmarais, Hop Growers & President of the Hop Growers of WA, and Steve George, Hop Growers of WA Assoc.)
3. Granger Drain Clean Up—(Charlie dela Chappelle, Orchardist/Board of Joint Control)
4. Sunnyside Area to talk about overhead fruit cooling requirements and dairy water and nutrient management—(Charlie dela Chapele and George DeRuyter, Dairy Owner/Operator)
5. Mabton Area to discuss pesticide use stewardship, pesticide use regulatory compliance, and to see a pesticide use demonstration—(Ann George, WA Hop Commission, Gary Buckner, WA State Department of Agriculture, and Bob Mondor & Russ Brock of John I. Hass, Inc.)

Day Two—Business Meeting

1. Welcome

Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and Steve Landino walked us through the 4(d) rule language concerning the AFW and pesticides language.

Steve George thanked us for attending the field trip yesterday and mentioned that there were still copies available of some of the handouts from yesterday.

2. Yakima Basin Tri-County Presentation

Jim Melton introduced Jim Trull, who shared information on the history of the Yakima Basin Tri-County Assessment Process which started as a grassroots effort and transitioned into the 2514 watershed planning process.

Andrew Wier built on this subject by sharing specifics on the comprehensive look at the water basin and the components it covers in the document they have produced. The document is in final review form and ready for comments. He walked us through the status of their project as it's gone through the three phases under 2514. He focused on the phase 2 process (compilation of existing data) and what elements they are focusing on (water quantity, ground water quality, habitat, and data evaluation).

Dweane Calvin covered potential outcomes of this process. Goal is to develop a complete list of water uses and shortfalls on the assessment process. They have only two years to complete the plan.

3. Ag Industry Position Paper (Handout)

Chris Cheney led us through the Agricultural Industry Position Paper that covers a programmatic approach to the AFW process. This was the same document shared in Wenatchee last month. It is an attempt of the Ag caucus to articulate how they feel on specific issues and clarify needs. They requested and received feedback on the position paper, bullet by bullet.

Curt S. stated for the record that as it relates to the final bullet regarding salmon recovery cost sharing—"the state absolutely agrees."

John M. suggested that we get back to westside tribes to clarify the voluntary issue.

Action Items:

- Steve L. will circulate the complete version of the 4(d) rule that includes the comments and responses section.

4. Colvilles' Proposal

Joe W. briefly explained that his presentation needs to build on voluntary compliance and FOTG 101 issues. Tim suggested that a smaller group meet to discuss the "voluntary" aspect of the process.

Action item:

- Joe W. will return at a future meeting with a presentation.
- Paula will supply those that request it, copies of the Colvilles' proposal.

5. Federal Draft Framework Proposal

Frank E. shared the revised draft proposal he had presented in Wenatchee. The new version includes comments received since the meeting. The Executive Committee provided him with comments/concerns.

He ended the briefing with some proposals to consider:

1. Roadmap implemented on a regional basis: west, central, and east.
2. Workgroups would work on typical scenarios for that region. Issues (biological, physical functions) would be addressed on a broad scale for that region and would be brought back to Exec. Cmte.

Jim J. asked us to look at how to link this with Tri-County, Skagit County and other efforts.

Caucus members in general were supportive of the overall framework concept. The Ag caucus encouraged the inclusion of local values in the standards' development, and an education component for the new standards.

6. Mechanics and Next Steps:

Between now and July — Tim suggested that we establish three technical/regional workgroups; establish a committee to provide guidance to the workgroups; and develop timeline for work products. Committee members would include 3-4 from Ag, 2-3 from the State, 2-3 from the feds, 1 tribal member, and someone from the enviros. Finding the resources within all of the caucuses to staff workgroups needs to be addressed.

To maximize our resources, Philip M. suggested that federal and state caucuses develop the first drafts of products.

After a caucus meeting, the Ag group agreed that they like the regional approach, but not east, central and west. They want to work region by region (northwest first), determining priority areas one at a time. This would mean that the EC would be meeting twice a month. After the July meeting presentations, we would develop timeline, guidance, sideboards, targets, etc.

Steve L. offered a third option based on issues. It would need to be linked to FOTG revision process.

There was a lengthy discussion around the three proposed regional approaches.

When asked for a date, Gerry J. stated that December 2000 is the target deadline for revising the FOTGs, otherwise the USFWS Section 7 consultation will have to begin with NRCS at that time.

Action items:

- Dick W. volunteered to work with Ecology's staff doing watershed planning (under 2514) to help determine how AFW can tie into those efforts. He also stated he could come back to talk about water quality "numbers" issues.
- The state/fed caucuses will come back to the EC in July with an issue paper(s) that explains all three options. They will try to get it out to everybody before the meeting.

7. Media Ground Rules

Tim reminded everyone that we have these ground rules and that we adhere to them.

8. FOTG 101 Training

Frank E. presented training on the history, content, and use of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). The course overview included:

- Glossary of terms
- Section 1-General Resource References
- Section 2-Soil and Site Information
- Section 3-Management Systems
- Section 4-Practice Standards and Specifications
- Section 5-Conservation Effects
- The NRCS Planning Process
- Using the FOTG to develop Conservation Plans

Action Item:

- All caucuses will review the list of 19 FOTGs proposed to be reviewed and get back to Frank with comments/suggestions.

9. Next Steps/Upcoming Meetings

The feds described what they plan to bring to the July meeting, i.e. the range of factors/variables (general targets) that would define the sideboards. This will be done in a classroom setting and will include a tour on day two. The July 25-26 meeting will be at the Best Inn (formally the R&R Resort) in Ellensburg, slated to go from 8-5 both days.

10. Other Business

May meeting summary was approved.

The August meeting was expanded to two days: August 23-24.

Meeting Handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft Summary from May 24th meeting
- AFW-FOTG Specific Ground Rules
- Summary of NMFS' Final Salmon and Steelhead 4(d) rule
- Unofficial copy of 4(d) rule language (did not include comments and responses)
- PowerPoint presentation slides:
 1. A Proposal for Achieving Properly Functioning Physical and Biological Conditions on Various Agricultural Landscapes, including revised flow charts
 2. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide
- Initial Conservation Practice List for AFW Review (revised from May)
- Flyers on Benton Conservation District's Fifth Annual Irrigated Agriculture Tour and the Workshop on State Water Law and Limiting Factors Analysis
- Agricultural Industry Position For a Programmatic Approach to the Agricultural, Fish and Water Process (AFW)

Tour handouts:

- Growing Practices Production Research Environmental Protection
- Implementation of BMPs in the Moxee Valley
- George DeRuyter & Sons Dairy 2000 Tour
- Looking to the Future; Reflecting on the Past (Dairy Industry Paper)

Attendee List

Name	Representing
1. Appel, Steve	Farm Bureau
2. Bakke, Paul	USFWS
3. Bambrick, Dale	NMFS
4. Bice, Bruce	WASC
5. Boggs, George	Whatcom County
6. Borck, Gretchen	WA Assoc. Wheat Growers
7. Brown, Charlie	Potato Commission
8. Calvin Dueane	City Of Yakima
9. Cheney, Chris	WA Dairy Federation
10. Clausing, Ted	WDFW
11. Craford, Kent	Sen. Slade Gorton's Office
12. Crerar, Linda	WSDA
13. Davis, Tom	Staff-House of Representatives
14. De Vaney, Jon	For Rep. Doc Hastings
15. dela Chapelle, Charlie	WA State Horticultural Assoc.
16. Deusen, Millard	WDF&W
17. Easter, Frank	NRCS
18. Faulconer, Lee	WSDA
19. Fullerton, Karla Kay	WA Cattlemen's Assoc.
20. Garvin, Bill	Columbia-Snake River Irrigators
21. George, Steve	Hop Growers
22. Graham, Andrew	EES, Inc.
23. Hamilton, Rod	Farm Service Agency
24. Hansen, Heather	WA Friends
25. Hendrix, Frank	WSU
26. Hirst, Ken	Legislative Staff
27. Honeyford, Jim	WA Senate
28. Isaak, Kurt	WA Assoc. of Conservation Districts
29. Jackson, Gerry	USFWS
30. Jensen, Martha	USFWS
31. Jesernig, Jim	WSCC
32. Johnson, Linda	Farm Bureau
33. Kauzloric, Phil	Ecology
34. Klingele, Keith	WAWGG
35. Kohl, Miles	Yakima Valley Growers/Shippers Assoc.
36. Kondo, Kara	Tri-County Water Resources Watershed Plan.
37. Konovsky, John	WSCC
38. LaCroix, Paul	Western WA Farm Crops Assn.
39. Landino, Steve	NMFS
40. Lee, Bob	Senate Ag Committee
41. Mankowski, John	WDF&W

42. Mayer, Kirk	WA Growers Clearing House Assn.
43. Milton, Jim	Tri-County Water Resource Agency
44. Morley, Philip	Snohomish County
45. Morton, Bob - Senator	Legislator
46. Muck, Jim	USFWS
47. Myra, Dave	NRCS
48. Nelson, Rick	WA Cattlemen's Assoc.
49. Noble, Sandy	USFWS
50. Peay, Wendy	WAGA
51. Pierson, Toni	WA Cattlemen's Assoc.
52. Poulson , Mike	Farm Bureau
53. Priest, Jim	Colville Confederated Tribes
54. Rice, Chuck	EPA
55. Robinson, Bill	Trout Unlimited
56. Robison, Dan	EPA
57. Rundlett, Mike	WSCC
58. Small, Jim	WA Growers Clearing House Assn.
59. Smeardon, Glenn	Ag Resources
60. Smitch, Curt	Governor's Office
61. Smith, Paula	WSCC
62. Smith, Rick	?
63. Stockle, Claudio	WSU
64. Stuhlmiller, John	WA Senate
65. Thompson, Tim	Facilitator
66. Tobin, Michael	North Yakima Conservation District
67. Trefry, Stu	WSCC
68. Trull, Jim	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
69. Van Horn, Rich	Van Horn Farms, Inc.
70. Vandemoer, Kate	NMFS
71. Visser, Richard	WDFW
72. Wallace, Dick	Ecology
73. Weeks, Joe	Colville Confederated Tribes
74. Wilett, Mike	Northwest Horticultural Council
75. Willis, Lynn	WSDA
76. Wisniewski, Veronica	Whatcom County Conservation District
77. Zimmerman, Jim	WA State Grange